

THE LACLEDE BLADE.

A. J. CAYWOOD, Editor and Publisher.

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WASHINGTON LETTER.

Our Regular Correspondent Writes From the National Capitol.

The president is out of town, Taft is off to Ohio, the secretary of state and most of the cabinet officers have gone officially to Jamestown, and some of them have managed to get switched off in other directions. And the lethargy of summer is beginning to settle on the town. But it will not be a quiet summer. All eyes are on Ohio, and will be till the fight there is over, and every move of the president is being watched both by friends and foes to see whether it has not some hidden bearing on the general political situation.

The latest rumor that has been put out in the Ohio campaign and that has not even been noticed to be ignored at the White House, is that the Taft candidacy is all a bluff and that he is really being used as a stalking horse for the president who is after a "second elective term." This is a new way of referring to the third term, and was concocted by some of the advocates of the third term proposition who thought it sounded better than the bald third term statement. But it can be said that Secretary Taft is not worrying. He has gone into the Ohio fight with the idea of winning, but he will not be heart broken if he does not.

One of the most serious features of the situation against him now is the opposition that has been stirred up by the labor union element over the president's alleged impolitic reference to Moyer, Hayward and Debs on the eve of the trial of the first two for the murder of Gov. Steunenberg of Idaho. The fight of the western federation in the case of Moyer and Hayward, who are among its high officers, has been taken up by many labor unions, and it looks as though Secretary Taft were going to have the opposition of the whole organized labor element in Ohio on the strength of it. In the course of the Harriman controversy, brought forward a letter in which he had referred to Moyer, Hayward and Debs as "undesirable citizens." All the champions of Moyer and Hayward were quick to take up the words and declare that the president was trying to influence the course of justice in a pending case by his reference to the Idaho murder. Then the president came back with a characteristic

reply, in which he denied any intention or ability to influence a pending case: by his reference, and added insult to injury by saying in effect that Moyer and Hayward were all that he called them originally and that he had no regrets to express over anything he had said. But the result has been to bring out a lot of protests from professional labor men all over the country, and the opposition will be quick to take advantage of the occurrence to make it as hard as possible for Taft in Ohio and elsewhere.

It is reported that the president has asked John Mitchell, president of the United Mine Workers of America, to come to the White House for a conference with a view to discontinuing any action that may be taken by the more radical labor unions. But Mr. Mitchell is just recovering from a severe spell of illness, and it is not known whether or how soon he can come to Washington.

The injection of a labor union controversy may or may not have a serious effect. The one essay of the labor element into practical politics last fall was not as encouraging as it might have been. President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor had a great deal of opposition from his own organization at that time in his attempt to organize labor into a political force. And the results in all the states where labor unions have tried to wield the balance of power were far from encouraging. It is known that John Mitchell has little sympathy with the western federation leaders, and if his influence is set against them in the east it is bound to have considerable effect. At the same time, all the administration advisors realize that the western federation can wield an immense force west of the Mississippi, whatever may be its power in Ohio, so it is a force to be reckoned with in the general campaign.

It may be said too that while the rank and file of the western federation are hard citizens, still they may not all deserve to be classed as "undesirable." The officers of the federation have much in the way of agitation to answer for, but the president, who knows the west as well as he does the east, realizes that many of the conditions that the western miners have been fighting are just about as bad as the counter conditions that the miners themselves have created. The mine owners in the gold and silver region of the west are themselves auto-crats of the most pronounced and in some cases the worst type. They have done as much as the miners themselves to bring about the reign of lawlessness that for the past decade has terrorized the western states by sections from northern New Mexico to the Canadian line. State troops, martial law and a suspension of the habeas corpus have

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all been invoked when there was and when there was not necessity for them. And the great mass of the western miners and laboring men have come to feel that the government was against them and that, as they had no standing in court, the only way to get what they considered their rights was by bushwhacking and dynamiting.

This situation needs a different class of men to deal with it from anyone who has appeared so far, and it is just possible that the president himself may go into the far west before the campaign gets very far advanced and tell "the boys" a few homely truths in language they will understand. His facility for dealing with and "getting next" to any sort of a mob or more elevated element is a little short of marvelous, and when he gets through talking to a western crowd in particular, the majority is usually willing to come into camp and do whatever he wishes. There was just an incident of this sort in Cheyenne a little more than a year back that may be referred to for illustration. The cow boys had gotten up a carnival for his benefit, and there was riding of bucking bronchos, roping and tying of steers and all the other rough work and play of the round up. Some of the cow-punchers knew the president and knew he was an expert old cattle man himself. Others suspected that if he had ever known the business he had been spoiled for it in the east.

When the show was over in front of his stand, the president made only one comment to the expectant crowd. "Boys," he said, "your riding was fine, but your tying wasn't worth a damn."

It was an absolutely accurate, dispassionate, technical criticism. Every cow-puncher in the state would have voted with him against their own convictions on the spot. The chances are if he goes after the western labor element, he will get them in something the same fashion.

Knowing only one side of a person is often the cause of our hating him.

The Tail of the Comet HAS PASSED

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Silver Skins

ONION SEED
Red Wethersfield
Brown Australian
Silver Skins

BEANS
Red Valentine
Durpee's Stringless
Durpee's Bush Lima
Black Wax
Kentucky Wonder
Lazy Wife
Large Lima
Pole Lima

PEAS
Little Gem
Champion of
England
American Wonder

MELONS
WATER MELONS
Sweet Heart
Ice Cream
Gypsy
Cuban Queen
Georgia Rattlesnake

MUSK MELON
Rocky Ford
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SQUASHES
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PARSNIPS
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